



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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05/12/06

→ *PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND!*

Patterson given Michigan League of Conservation Voters' Award for "Environmental Leadership, 2006"

Sen. Patterson received the 2006 Environmental Leadership Award Wednesday from the non-partisan Michigan League of Conservation Voters for his legislative record of innovative conservation measures.

The award honors Patterson for his "courageous votes to strengthen the protection of our Great Lakes" and his "recognition of the need for a long-term energy plan for the state, including both renewable energy requirements and conservation."



May 10 — Taylor's Mayor Cameron Priebe joins Sen. Patterson in the Lansing office in celebrating the award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. Patterson holds the 2006 "Environmental Leadership" Award, presented that morning, for his legislative record of innovative conservation measures.

"I am very humbled to receive this award from the Michigan League of Conservation Voters," said Patterson at the awards breakfast at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing. "Energy concerns, especially renewable energy and alternative fuels, are key issues to the future of our state and to me as well. And protecting Michigan's water and abundant, vital natural resources is foundational to much of the legislation we take up."

His environmental legislation includes protecting our waters from invasive species, reducing the flow of out-of-state waste into Michigan, encouraging the Great Lakes states to work together to address shared issues, protecting streams in Wayne County, encouraging recycling, creating tougher penalties for polluters, crafting policies for improved groundwater conservation and water withdrawals, and the Clean Water Bond Act, passed overwhelmingly by voters in November 2002. This legislation has led to new, permanent jobs, as well as much-needed construction.

Patterson has been frequently recognized for his devoted work as a legislator. He has received nine other awards from organizations across Michigan. His previous awards include:

- Distinguished Service, Michigan Municipal League (2005)
- Advocate of the Year, Michigan Manufacturers Association (2004)
- Legislative Award, Senior Alliance (2004)
- Friend of Nursing, Michigan Nursing Association (2004)
- Advocate of the Year, Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (2004)
(the very first recipient of the award)
- Best Local Politician, Plymouth Observer newspaper (2004)
- Legislator of the Year, Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Architects (2004)
(the very first recipient of the award)
- Legislator of the Year, Michigan Associated Underground Contractors (2002)
- Champion of Commerce, Michigan Chamber of Commerce (2000)

Guest Auctioneer for Plymouth-Canton Schools' Radio Fundraiser

Sen. Patterson will take part in the annual event, to help the school's effort, with fun and profit. Tomorrow, May 13, is the day; from Noon to 12:30pm is his slot. This will be broadcast on Plymouth's Salem High School Station, WSDP, 88.1FM, 9am to 10pm. It is the chief fund-raiser for the radio station. They have a goal this year of \$15,000. You may see the list of items for auction at < www.881TheEscape.com >. The station has been on the air for 34 years. Students from all the district's high schools take part. Listen in, and call in your bids. Join the fun!

*** Remember the Mail-Carriers' Food Drive, Saturday, May 13 – Non-perishables, please!***

Breakfast with Bruce, and tips for Seniors, in Trenton, May 19

Trenton area Seniors are invited for a complimentary breakfast, with worthwhile information, too! Here's your opportunity to spend time with Senator Bruce Patterson, and learn some things you want to know. RSVPs are requested.

This free breakfast will be offered on Friday, May 19th, from 9:00am to 10:30am, at Trenton's Westfield Center. It will have a Springtime theme. Please call Trenton's Westfield Center, (734) 675-0063, to reserve your spot. The Center is located at 2700 Westfield, Trenton (just off West Road behind the Library).

One Guest Speaker will be Joan Rich, from the Traffic Improvement Association (a non-profit group). She will talk on useful tips for senior drivers. She will address a few issues related to mobility and compensation skills. This will include facts and funny myths about senior drivers, and recent engineering changes to aid mature drivers.

Lieutenant Rick Miles of the Trenton Police Department will speak about safety and driving issues in Trenton.

Sen. Patterson will also speak about issues of interest to seniors.

Call Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Rep., at (734) 783-1642 with any questions.

Patterson to address SWCCC

On Monday, May 22, at noon, Senator Patterson will speak to a luncheon gathering of the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon will be served at 11:30 at Crystal Gardens, 16703 Fort St., Southgate. Sen. Patterson is scheduled to speak at about noon. Sen. Basham will also speak.

Bill limiting funeral demonstrations sent to governor

Legislation allowing a permit to be required for demonstrations outside a funeral home, church, cemetery, synagogue, or mosque where a funeral or memorial service is taking place is heading to the governor's desk. Senate Bill 1199 allows local units of government to require protestors to apply for and be issued a permit in order to demonstrate outside a funeral. A permit would not have to be issued if the service is on private property; one *may* be issued if the service is on public property. In addition, the local government may charge a fee for the application and issuance of a permit. Sen. Patterson gave the bill strong support in a radio interview. The clip is found at

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/patterson/index.htm>

Senate votes to protect children from sexual predators

The Senate voted on key bills this week that would help protect children across Michigan from sexual predators. Mark Lunsford, father of Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old Florida girl who was kidnapped, raped, and murdered by a convicted sex offender, joined in support of the legislation. He testified before the Judiciary Committee.

The package would allow certain repeat sex offenders who target children to be sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole. SBs 709, 717 and 718 require repeat offenders convicted of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree to serve a life sentence without a chance of parole if their victims were under the age of 13. Michigan's version of "Jessica's Law" would set a minimum of 25 years in prison with lifetime parole for anyone 17 years or older convicted of sexually assaulting a child under 13.

The Senate's Judiciary Committee, on which Sen. Patterson sits, unanimously approved Jessica's Law, while the House of Representatives passed SBs 709, 717 and 718.

*A most **Happy Mothers' Day** to all the moms who read this newsletter!*

Live healthy, pay less

Michigan residents who live healthier will have the opportunity to pay less for health insurance under legislation passed by the Senate this week. Insurance companies will be allowed to create health incentive programs which reward healthy behavior with lower insurance rates.

Senate Bills 848 and 849 will allow insurers, HMOs and non-profit health care corporations to offer wellness coverage and provide premium rebates for participation. Currently, health insurance companies, unlike life, home or auto insurance carriers, are forbidden by state law from offering incentives for good behavior.

Rising health care costs have taken their toll on every sector in Michigan, including businesses, schools and state government. This has forced employers to drop health coverage, require employees to pay more or lay off workers. A 2004 Altarum study found Michi-

gan ranked second highest in obesity, sixth highest in smoking, highest in coronary heart disease and second highest in diabetes, when compared with selected benchmark states.

The bills now go to the House for consideration.

Sen. Patterson has introduced SB 1205, to allow state employees the choice of Health Savings Accounts. They are another way to introduce incentives in health care.

Senate passes bills establishing new Fire Bureau

Optimal firefighting efficiency and increased safety for Michigan citizens are closer to reality after the Senate passed a bipartisan package of bills this week that will consolidate firefighting resources into a new Bureau of Fire Services. The bureau will be an autonomous agency within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth [DLEG] and transfers the powers and duties of the state fire marshal to the newly created office. The office also will include the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council, Fire Safety Board and any other agency, board or commission designated as a part of the bureau. The package follows an executive directive to consolidate resources and strengthen Michigan's emergency management and homeland security efforts. The House will now consider the bills.

For your viewing pleasure

A few chances remain to hear Sen. Patterson's interview on *CNN Headline News* this weekend:

He speaks on energy matters vital to Michigan.

Saturday	Sunday
5/13	5/14
12:54 AM	12:54 AM
4:54 AM	4:54 AM
*9:54 AM	*9:54 AM
*2:54 PM	*2:54 PM
*7:54 PM	*7:54 PM

Protecting your Cell Records from con-artists:

Patterson bill unanimously passes Senate

Could someone use your private cell-phone records against you? Just a few personal facts about you would allow someone to pose as you, and so obtain your phone records by fraud. Phone-service providers try to keep these records confidential, but they can be tricked by clever con-artists.

Sen. Patterson introduced Senate Bill 1202 to outlaw such deception and protect consumers. The bill swiftly proceeded through its process, and was voted through the Senate today, May 11. It goes now to the House for consideration.

Office Hours schedule for May, 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am to 1 pm.

May 15th -- Coffee Lounge, 45610 Cherry Hill (just W. of Canton Center Rd), Canton
[a new business in Canton]

May 22nd -- Mochavation Café, 8537 Macomb Street, Grosse Ile, with *time change*:
9 am to 11 am.

No office hours scheduled for May 29th – MEMORIAL DAY.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!